REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, and 21 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-4, and 7-23 remain pending in the present application.

The claim amendments presented herein merely correct typographical errors and erroneous claim dependencies, and improve the form thereof to place the claims in better condition for appeal. In accordance with MPEP § 1207, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.116, whereupon entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned <u>"Version with markings to show changes made."</u>

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 29, 2002   Respectfully submitted,
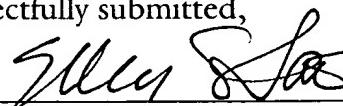
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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

9. (Amended) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into multiple tasks, wherein there is at least a first task and a second task;

selecting a current tasking horizon from a plurality of potential event horizons representing a plurality of timeframes;

selecting at least two verbs for said first task;

selecting at least two verbs for said second task;

assigning said first task to a first task assignment station;

assigning said second task to a second task assignment station;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion [data] date for said first task from said first task assignment station;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion date for said second task from said second task assignment station;

receiving an actual start date and a first verb for said first task;

receiving an actual start date and a second verb for said second task;

computing churn of said first task;

computing churn of said second task;

computing a risk factor for said first task based on said first verb; and

computing a risk factor for said second task based on said second verb.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said actual [dates comprise] date comprises an actual start date and an actual stop date.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said actual [dates comprise] date comprises an actual start date and an actual stop date.

17. (Amended) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into tasks;

selecting a tasking horizon;

selecting at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks, <u>wherein</u> each of said verbs is task dependent;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted stop date for said at least one task;

receiving an actual start date and an actual stop date for said at least one task;

receiving one of said at least two verbs that corresponds to said actual start and stop dates, wherein said verb describes at least one reason for said actual start and stop dates;

comparing said predicted start and stop dates with said actual start and stop dates;

computing churn of said at least one task; and

reviewing said churn in view of said at least one verb, and assigning a risk factor to said task based on said review.

18. (Amended)   The method as claimed in claim [16] <u>17</u>, wherein said risk factor is equal to a percentage of the time between said predicted start and stop dates.

21. (Amended)   The apparatus as claimed in claim [19] <u>20</u>, wherein said apparatus is utilized in a churn monitoring program to reduce said churn.